



Indiana Department of Education

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High Ability Language Arts Units - Grade 2 Connections of the Heart Content Differentiation - May 2015

Lesson Number	Original Reading Selection, Discussion Questions or Project	Alternate that might be more appropriate for average to above-average learners
Lesson 3: Eldorado	<i>Eldorado</i> by Edgar Allen Poe and <i>Eldorado</i> analysis	<p>An alternative poem more accessible to average ability students that compliments the unit's focus on emotional connections is <i>The Mountain and the Squirrel</i> by Ralph Waldo Emerson:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Mountain and the Squirrel by Ralph Waldo Emerson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The mountain and the squirrel Had a quarrel; And the former called the latter "Little Prig." Bun replied, "You are doubtless very big; But all sorts of things and weather Must be taken in together, To make up a year And a sphere. And I think it no disgrace To occupy my place. If I'm not so large as you, You are not so small as I, And not half so spry. I'll not deny you make A very pretty squirrel track; Talents differ; all is well and wisely put; If I cannot carry forests on my back, Neither can you crack a nut."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Public Domain): www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/fable</p>

		<p>Teacher Background: In this poem, Emerson tells us to not judge others and that we all have our own unique strengths and weaknesses. He wants us to understand that it takes all kinds to make up this world as the beautiful place it is.</p> <p>Follow the lesson as described, changing/adding the following discussion questions:</p> <p>Discussing the following vocabulary words will aid in the comprehension of the poem:</p> <p>prig = a self-righteous, narrow-minded person who behaves as if superior to others former = the first or first mentioned of two people or things latter = the second or second mentioned of two people or things Bun = a pet name for a squirrel or rabbit</p> <p>Reading Analyzer:</p> <p>5. Feelings: What feelings did the squirrel and the mountain have?</p> <p>7. Ideas: What lesson does this poem teach us?</p> <p>9. Structure: How did Emerson use alliteration and rhyme?</p> <p>14: Activity: (Choose one or do both)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the characteristics of a mountain and a squirrel. • Think of a specific time in your life when you could have directly applied the following line from the poem: "If I cannot carry forests on my back, Neither can you crack a nut." Explain the circumstances of the situation and how this line from the poem applies.
Lesson 4: The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane	Homework: Reading chapters of <i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i> at home.	For students unable to read a novel at this level independently, use technology to make an audio recording available for them to access and use as they follow along in their own books. Apply this suggestion to all lessons requiring students to read chapters independently as homework.

Lesson 6: Connecting by Asking Questions	Vocabulary Map completion	Differentiate the Vocabulary Map activity by choosing level-appropriate vocabulary words for each student/pair of students. Apply this suggestion whenever necessary to other lessons in which students complete a Vocabulary Map.
Lesson 8: Text To Text Connections – The Velveteen Rabbit	<i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i> by Margery Williams	<p>An alternative title more accessible to average ability students that meets the objectives of this lesson is <i>Corduroy</i> by Don Freeman. <i>Corduroy</i> shares the important message that even the flawed are worthy of love. The story speaks to the innate sense of goodness children possess – that they can want and love something “imperfect,” something that adults might dismiss as unworthy.</p> <p>Possible discussion questions for <i>Corduroy</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways are Lisa and her mom different? • If Corduroy had both buttons and looked new, how might the story have changed? • What are both the advantages and disadvantages of Lisa buying Corduroy and taking him home? <p>Students can continue with the lesson as described, comparing Edward and Corduroy, along with the story elements from both stories.</p>
Lesson 11: Connecting To Other Books	Book Club Titles	<p>Use the differentiated list of book club book titles to encourage students to choose an appropriate-leveled book to read. In addition, for students reading below the third grade level, consider titles from the following series:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercy Watson by Kate DiCamillo • Pinky and Rex by James Howe • Poppleton by Cynthia Rylant <p>If using these shorter titles, students may read more than one title during Book Club time within the unit.</p>

Lesson 15: Road to Publication	Four Level Analysis sentence	If a different title/different titles was/were used in place of <i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i> , choose a sentence from the replacement text(s) for the four level analysis portion of this lesson.
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